

the Supreme Commanders offices, the United Nations headquarters and General MacArthur were their primary assignments.

A few weeks after arrival in Tokyo, Corporal Dixon was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as leader of a guard patrol. Truitt's discharge from the Army makes this statement, "Served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater for 15 months. Served in the Honor Guard Company, General Headquarters Tokyo, Japan. Assisted in the guarding and patrolling of General MacArthur's headquarters. Supervised 15 men of a patrol section. Kept section records and made recommendations to his commanding officer."

On August 15, 1945, the United States received Japan's notification of surrender. On September 2, 1945, General MacArthur signed the official documents ending World War II with Japan. With the war over, Truitt returned to the United States and reunited with his wife and young daughter. He received his Honorable Discharge on May 5, 1994.

During his military career, he received the following decorations and citations: Combat Infantryman Badge, The Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon (with one Bronze Star), Army Occupation Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Sgt. Arnold Truitt Dixon for his honorable service to our great country and honoring him as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

ERADICATING HIV/AIDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we unite in solidarity to eradicate HIV/AIDS in our communities across the world. We stand together to raise awareness about the epidemic so we can prevent further spread of the deadly virus and give hope to the 33.3 million people worldwide who are suffering from this terrible illness.

In the United States alone, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over one million people are HIV positive. What is even more tragic is that one in five people infected are unaware of it. HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death for both the African American and Hispanic communities and presents a great hazard to our society.

I believe Congress has a moral obligation to continue funding to eliminate HIV/AIDS despite our budgetary challenges. Earlier this year I introduced the National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV/AIDS Act which would authorize several federal health agencies such as the National Institute of Health, Office of Minority Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC to intensify awareness prevention, community outreach, testing, behavioral research, and increase grants to faith-based organizations in the African American community.

This year's theme for World AIDS Day is 'Getting to zero'. That means zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths. These are common goals shared globally regardless of race, religion or political

ideologies. Yet we can only accomplish these goals in America if we work together, Democrats and Republicans, in supporting bold initiatives and legislation to combat HIV/AIDS in our communities.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the fight to arrest HIV-AIDS must continue.

Today is December 1, World Aids Day and in Chicago at the Ruth Rothstein Core Center at 2020 West Harrison St., Chicago, Governor Pat Quinn, and a group of AIDS professionals activists organized by Benny Montgomery, a retired member of my Congressional staff are holding a press conference as we do every year to kick off a day of awareness raising and action to help in the fight against HIV and AIDS. I am generally able to be with this group. However, my duties as a Member of Congress have kept me here in Washington, DC. Nevertheless, I am pleased to be represented by my assistant Ms. Cherita Logan, our Deputy District Director, who is a long time AIDS activist and education program director herself.

We recognize that although some programs have been made, as a matter of fact much progress has been made, but we still have much further to go; therefore I urge each one of us to do as much individually and collectively as we can to fight this dreadful disease.

HONORING HARRIS MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 2011 Harris Memorial Church of God in Christ will celebrate its 65th year of devotion to the Lord. Founded in January of 1946 by the late Superintendent Theodore R. Harris the church started out as Elm Park Church of God in Christ in a partially finished structure. With the help of his bride Missionary Erna I. Harris they set out to create a place where souls could be saved and the community could be served. During the church's infancy Brother Willie Parker was called to join the congregation as an evangelist. Elder Parker was instrumental in hosting a revival that led to many saved souls and a steady increase in the membership.

As the congregation grew, Pastor Harris sought God's vision and decided to build a sanctuary. In 1959, with great celebration and thanks to the Lord, the sanctuary was built. The congregation was empowered by the success the Lord had bestowed upon the young church and the congregation paid off the sanctuary in 1965. On Friday, July 25, 1980 Pastor Harris departed life to join the Lord. He was succeeded by his grandson Pastor Walter E. Bogan.

Having a close relationship with his grandfather, Pastor Bogan knew that his grand-

father's vision for the church included expanding its ministries. He wanted to fulfill that vision and began to look for locations that had the space for the expanded ministries. In 1983, 30 acres of land was purchased to build a house for the Lord and His ministries. On November 22, 1992 the church's construction was completed on Lippincott Ave. They reside at this location today and the expanded ministries strengthen souls every week. Walter Bogan's son is now the presiding Pastor at Harris Memorial and works to continue and expand the success of their many ministries.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Harris Memorial Church of God in Christ on their success and dedication to the Flint Community. I pray that the ministers, staff, and congregation of Harris Memorial will continue their work and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ for many, many years to come.

REGARDING ALAN P. GROSS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the second year anniversary of the unjust and inhumane incarceration in a Cuban prison of my constituent Allan P. Gross.

A 62-year-old international development specialist and social worker with 25 years of experience helping people in the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and throughout Africa, Alan Gross has devoted his career to helping others with a single goal in mind: to improve the quality of life of the disadvantaged.

And, it is as a result of these humanitarian efforts that he has spent the last 2 years locked up in a Cuban prison.

Alan was arrested in Cuba while working on behalf of USAID to help the country's Jewish community establish an Intranet and improve its access to the Internet. The Jewish community in Cuba is small and dispersed, making it difficult to communicate amongst themselves and with the wider Jewish community around the world. Neither his presence nor his actions in Cuba were meant to pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government.

For the first 14 months of his captivity, Alan was held without charge. Then, in February 2011, he was charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of the State. After a two day trial, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison. His appeal on humanitarian grounds to the Cuban Supreme Court was denied on August 5, 2011.

Alan's health has deteriorated tremendously during his incarceration. He has lost approximately 100 pounds and he is suffering from a number of serious health issues, some of which his family fears may become permanent. Additionally, in August 2010, his 26-year-old daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer and, this year, his 89-year-old mother was also diagnosed with cancer.

Given the humanitarian nature of his activities in Cuba, and given his health and the health of his family, sentencing Alan Gross to 15 years in prison was inhumane.

If the Cuban government is serious about improving relations with the United States, it must recognize the harm its continued incarceration of Alan Gross is doing to that relationship.